A LETTER from a Gentleman

To some DIVINES of the

Church of England,

Touching their SCRUPLES about Taking

The OATHS of ALLEGIANCE

TO

King William and Q. Mary,

Our present KING and QUEEN,

He being a Member of the same Church.

SIRS,

IT cannot but be owned by all, acknowledging a Divine Providence, how miraculously God hath appeared for the Preservation of the *Reformed Religion* in these Kingdoms since its first Establishment, notwithstanding the deep Designs and private Intrigues for ruine managed by the most subtle and inveterate Enemies, for the utter Exterminating our most holy Religion; yet it is observable of late Years, that the untempered Zeal of the ROMISH Party was such, that the very Designs they carried on for the Introducing their Religion, proved Effectual to secure ours. And since it hath pleased ALMIGHTY GOD to make His present MAJESTY the Glorious Instrument of this great and happy Deliverance, and placed Him upon the Throne by a joint Consent of the People, it remains that we give Him all Moral Assurances of our OBEDIENCE and LOYALTY.

It hath been objected by some DIVINES of our CHURCH, *They cannot take* OATHS *to this present* KING, *the Force of their Former yet remaining.*

I answer, Whensoever a KING becomes a Lunatick, or out of Fear, or secret Guilt, goes away from his People, it is an absolute Renunciation of his Government: But especially if he go into a Foreign Country, and join himself with the Enemies of his People, not appointing any Commissioner to act for him, it must then of necessity be understood an *Abdication*. The very

very design of taking Oaths to our Sovereign, is to support his Power, and to enable him to protect his People; and it would be most unreasonable to imagine, after he hath resign'd his Power, and withdrawn his Protection from us, our Obligations to him should still remain: This were to deny the preservation of our Lives and Estates, and all that is dear to us, by introducing Disorder and Confusion amongst us.

And did not some of our SPIRITUAL GUIDES seem to acquiesce in this very Opinion, when they so Zealously invited the KING to accept the Government? What, do they now repent the former good Services they have done for the Church? Are they fallen from their First Love? Are they so Timorous, Unsteady, or Sneaking, to withdraw their Assistances from us at a time we have most occasion to use them?

Is this a Season for any of the DIVINES of our Church to promote Sinister Ends, encourage Cabals, to become Sullen, Cloudy, Full of Discontents? Are these the grateful Returns we offer to GOD and the KING, who so opportunely Interposed to Relieve us? What meaneth the Lingrings and Delays of some of the CLERGY in Taking the OATHS? Would they Influence the People with Bad Principles by their Examples? Or Divert the Affections of the People from a Protestant Government? If this be the *English* of it, GOD send more Faithful Labourers into his Vineyard?

What Respect would Accrue to the GUIDES of our Church, could we find them earnestly endeavouring to be of one mind, full of Self-denial, resigning their petty Interest, when it tends to publick Benefit, promoting Peace and Union, and joining themselves with the People, for the advancing the Glory of God, and the Settlement of our Ancient Laws and Government? And can we at this time be ignorant what successful Progress our Enemies Designs have already met with?

Were ever the ROMISH Party more industriously Busie than at this Time? Do they not, like Moles, Night and Day work Under-Ground with Protestant Tools, promising themselves a prosperous Event, as sufficiently appeareth by their bold and threatning Speeches? Have they not, within these few Months past, commenced Quarrels and Disputes, raised Heats and Animosities between Protestant and Protestant, promoted needless Fears and Jealousies against the present Government? And do we still remain such unskilful Pilots, to be Shipwrackt twice upon the same Rock?

To Conclude, *Let us Pray for the Peace of* Jerusalem, *and become Daily Orators at the Court of Heaven, That the* Ark *of the* Covenant *may yet remain amongst us; Let us be stedfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, for as much as we know that our Labour shall not be in Vain.*

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